

HOUSE BILL 775

P5, G1

2lr1761

By: **Delegates Braveboy, Gutierrez, Alston, Carr, Conaway, Gilchrist, Howard, Lee, Luedtke, Nathan-Pulliam, Oaks, Pena-Melnyk, Reznik, Simmons, Tarrant, V. Turner, Valentino-Smith, Walker, and Zucker**

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2012

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study Redistricting in Maryland**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force to Study Redistricting in Maryland;
4 specifying the composition, powers, and duties of the Task Force; providing for
5 the staffing of the Task Force; requiring the Task Force to report its findings
6 and recommendations, including suggested constitutional and legislative
7 changes, to the Governor and to the General Assembly by a certain date;
8 providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Task
9 Force to Study Redistricting in Maryland.

10 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
11 MARYLAND, That:

12 (a) There is a Task Force to Study Redistricting in Maryland.

13 (b) The Task Force shall consist of the following thirteen members:

14 (1) Two members of the Senate of Maryland, one of whom shall be a
15 member of the minority party of the Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate;

16 (2) Two members of the House of Delegates, one of whom shall be a
17 member of the minority party of the House, appointed by the Speaker of the House;
18 and

19 (3) Twelve individuals appointed by the Governor to reflect the ethnic,
20 racial, gender, and geographic diversity of the State, including:

21 (i) A representative of the League of Women Voters of
22 Maryland;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (ii) A representative of the Maryland Democratic Party State
2 Central Committee;

3 (iii) A representative of the Maryland Republican Party State
4 Central Committee;

5 (iv) A representative of the National Association for the
6 Advancement of Colored People;

7 (v) A representative of the American Civil Liberties Union;

8 (vi) Three representatives of nonprofit civil rights organizations
9 as follows:

10 1. One of whom represents Asian/Pacific Islanders;

11 2. One of whom represents Blacks/African Americans;
12 and

13 3. One of whom represents Hispanics;

14 (vii) A representative of the Maryland Institute for Policy
15 Analysis and Research at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County;

16 (viii) A representative of the State Board of Elections; and

17 (ix) Two other individuals, chosen from among individuals and
18 organizations with a demonstrated record of strong civic and community involvement
19 and participation in the electoral process.

20 (c) The Governor shall designate the chair of the Task Force.

21 (d) The Department of Planning, the State Board of Elections, and the
22 Department of Legislative Services shall provide staff for the Task Force.

23 (e) The Task Force shall:

24 (1) Examine the current redistricting process in Maryland as it relates
25 to the redistricting of the General Assembly, including the use of single-member
26 districts, and the redistricting of the State's representatives to the United States
27 Congress following each decennial census;

28 (2) Collect and analyze information relating to the manner and
29 methods utilized for state legislative and United States congressional redistricting in
30 other states around the country following each decennial census;

1 (3) As it considers appropriate, receive testimony from and consult
2 with individuals who are knowledgeable about State and federal constitutional and
3 statutory requirements and other matters related to the redistricting process; and

4 (4) Suggest any constitutional or statutory changes that it concludes
5 are desirable in order to improve the redistricting process in Maryland to ensure that,
6 to the greatest extent practicable, General Assembly and congressional districts are
7 compact, contiguous, respectful of the State's natural boundaries, and promote full and
8 vigorous participation in the political process by the citizens of the State.

9 (f) On or before December 31, 2013, the Task Force shall report its findings
10 and recommendations, including any proposed changes to the Maryland Constitution
11 or any statutory changes to the Maryland election law, to the Governor and, subject to
12 § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly for consideration by
13 the General Assembly in the 2014 Session.

14 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
15 July 1, 2012. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June 30,
16 2014, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
17 abrogated and of no further force and effect.